



GROVE WATCH

NEWSLETTER OF THE FOREST GROVE POLICE DEPT.

MAY. 2016

POINTS OF INTEREST

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SUMMER SAFETY TIPS

★

100 DEADLY DAYS

★

SHARING THE ROAD

★

REACHING OUT

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Police Urge Safety in the Summer Heat

For Oregonians, the bright yellow orb in the sky that begins to show itself come late spring is a welcome reprieve from months of grey clouds and rainy days. Memorial Weekend, held the last Monday of May each year, generally kicks off a season of outdoor recreation and weekend barbecues and block parties—not to mention extra traffic on the road, a rise in theft, and accidents involving unsafe play in the warmth. Use these few basic precautions for a safer summer:

- 1.) Watch your speed—dry roads can lead drivers to be less cautious and more aggressive, which can be dangerous in high-traffic areas and around slow moving vehicles (see page 3)
- 2.) Secure your home—close and lock your home, garage, and car doors and windows at night or while away.



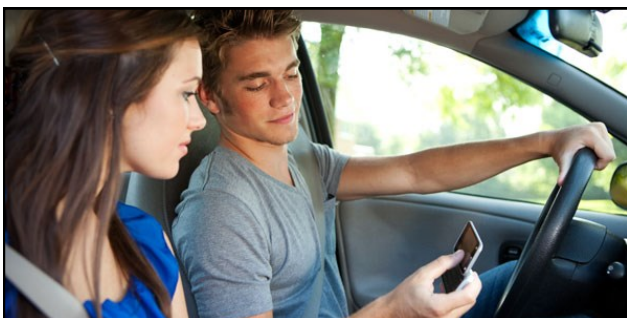
Whether you're out for a bike ride, exploring nature trails, kicking back for a barbecue, or taking the boat to the lake, the FGPD urges you to play and travel safely this summer.

- 3.) Secure your car—always lock your vehicle doors and windows, keep valuables out of sight, and store indoors when possible.
- 4.) Wear appropriate safety equipment—such as helmets, visibility gear, or life jackets
- 5.) Obey park and campground rules and regulations regarding hours, and permitted activities
- 6.) Never leave kids or pets unattended in a hot vehicle, even for a just a few minutes

DRIVE SOBER:

Almost half of all alcohol related vehicle fatalities happen during the summer months, with Memorial Day, July 4th, and Labor Day as some of the deadliest days of the year.

Driving your car, boat, or RV, never operate a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or drugs, and always be mindful of other vehicle drivers. Take special precaution on holidays, long weekends, and in tourist areas.



Teen Driver Safety: 100 “Deadly Days”

Car crashes are the leading cause of death among teenagers. These fatalities are 40% more likely to occur in the 100 days between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

With school out for summer break, more teens are on the road during the months of June, July and August. Between speeding, distracted driving, and failure to wear seatbelts, those months are known as the 100 Deadly Days for teen drivers.

While it is true that the majority of all traffic deaths across the nation occur during the summer months, the warmer weather and higher traffic volumes pose greater threats to teenagers who often lack driving experience. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration suggests that further causes include the higher number of drivers under the influence during summer months, as well as distractions such as mobile phones, excessively loud music, grooming, and even other teens in the car.

Research shows that parents are one of the biggest forces keeping teens safe in cars. By being a good driving role model, teenagers pick up good habits and practices as they watch and learn. Moreover, teens whose parents are actively engaged with their daily life are more than 70% less likely to drink and drive, and half as likely to speed or use a phone while driving. Studies also show that delaying the ownership of a car, that is, requiring permission from a parent to borrow a car, cuts the risk of accident in half as teens feel added pressure to return the vehicle in good condition. Additionally, parents and guardians are encouraged to restrict their teen's driving to safe driving conditions (for example, avoiding inclement weather) and to routes familiar to their teen, such as to work, shopping centers, or other family members' homes, as they gain confidence in their driving skills. This can be a challenge in the summer as many teens may want to join friends in road trips or taking backroads for camping.

Once teens are out on the road by themselves, it is critical that parents or guardians set very clear rules, such as no speeding tickets or mandatory seatbelt use. Rules should be explained to teenagers in ways that help them understand the rules are meant for safety, not as a “kill joy.” Watch groups for teen driver safety suggest that rule violations should have real consequences which teenagers are held accountable for, such as having to pay a speeding ticket out of their own pocket.

The main risk factor for teen drivers in the summer is the tendency to drive more frequently with other teenagers in the car—other people form one of the biggest distractions of all, leading drivers to pay less attention to speed or the vehicles ahead, slow moving vehicles, and other hazards. Oregon (and a good many other states) have specific laws regarding who teenagers may transport. Teenage driving is also restricted during night hours with an evening curfew due to the deadly risk of driving while tired.

Driving proactively, defensively, and by the law can help reduce the risk of traffic accidents. By partnering with your teen, you can help them navigate these 100 days safely.



Safe Travel, Share the Roads

Whether it's a combine, a herd of cyclists, road construction, or an RV from California, we've all experienced frustration when stuck between slow moving traffic and the double yellow line. But whether you're a commuter or a road warrior, the reality is that all vehicles must share the road and obey all traffic laws.

FARM EQUIPMENT: Summer and Autumn are busy times for regional farmers who rely on local roads for transporting equipment. Slow moving vehicles are required to use turnouts whenever possible, and motorists may pass a slow moving vehicle when the roadway is clear of oncoming traffic far enough ahead to safely pass. A motorist may pass a slow moving vehicle in a no passing zone, but must always yield the right of way to oncoming traffic. When passing, take extra precaution as equipment may be wider than first perceived and require ample space.

CONSTRUCTION ZONES: Drier weather makes for better road works for condition, both on rural and city roads. Remember that many traffic violation fines will double in construction zones. Also take special care to give space to flaggers and machinery, and follow all posted signs.

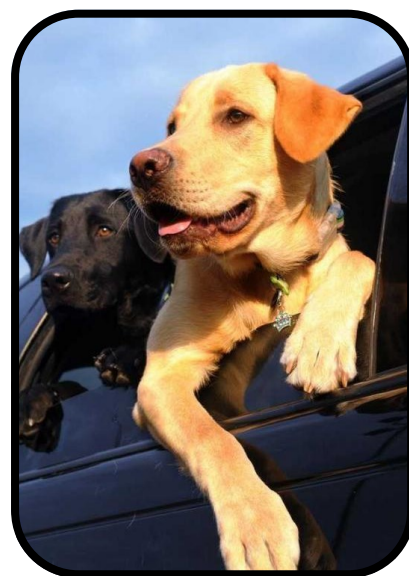
BICYCLISTS: Forest Grove and the surrounding communities are popular destinations for cyclists. Cyclists have the right to use any of the area's public roadways, and just like vehicles, bicyclists must obey all traffic laws, and must stay to the right side of the road. Cyclists should remain in bike lanes when available and ride single file. Vehicle drivers should pay attention to cyclist signals for turning and give ample room to cyclists using the regular roadways.

For more information about sharing the road, visit Washington County online at: <http://www.co.washington.or.us/LUT/TrafficSafety>

Summer Heat Brings Danger for Pets

Furry friends are great travel companions, but extra care is needed when traveling with them in the heat. For instance, on a 70° day, it only takes 20 minutes for the inside temperature of a car parked in shade to reach more than 100° degrees—even with the windows cracked. On a sunny afternoon in the 90's, twenty minutes in a car could easily cause heat stroke and possibly death for pets inside the car.

Take further caution when walking pets on hot pavement. At just 80° degrees, asphalt temperatures can reach up to 135° - that's hot enough to fry an egg! A good test is to place your hand on the pavement; if you can withstand it for ten seconds, it's safe for the pads of your pets feet. And always make sure pets have access to plenty of cool water on hot days. Enjoy the sun with your pet, but do so wisely!



Captain's Corner



A few years ago, Forest Grove Police launched a proactive effort to make more connections with our community. In 2007 we were the first area department to offer a "Citizen's Academy," and also launched an annual National Night Out Crime Prevention event. In 2009 we launched a social media presence through Facebook and Twitter that now has daily interaction between police and nearly 7,800 followers. In 2013, we were the first area police department to host "Coffee with a Cop" in an effort to create opportunities for the community to meet officers in a casual setting. We are working to build bridges with our growing Latino community, while joining area stakeholders in reaching different demographics within our City. We most recently had great success in "Coffee with a Cop" on the grounds of Pacific University where we spoke with many of our University students.

We know that police officers have faced scrutiny for their actions nationally along with a growing perception by many racial and ethnic minorities that the police lack lawfulness and legitimacy. Here in Forest Grove we have set out to change any of those perceptions that may exist in our community by promoting transparency in our outreach programs. We are seeing positive results. More citizens are stepping forward to report suspicious activity and crime. We have in person and social media communication with our public on a daily basis where more concerns are being brought to our attention. The result is a safer community!

We strive to be the model for other agencies to follow in our outreach efforts. We want to be the best we can be. We extend our hand to every citizen in our community - come join us in the conversation in making Forest Grove a place where families and businesses can thrive!

Interact with Your Forest Grove Police

Through events like Coffee with a Cop, the National Night Out, Public Safety Open House, and Citizen's Academy, the Forest Grove Police are glad to open our doors to the community to learn more about the department and the officers who serve them. We invite you to come say hello at the following upcoming activities:

First Wednesday: May 4th, June 1st, July 6th, August 3rd

Coffee with a Cop: July 6, 8-10 a.m., Coffee House in the Grove

National Night Out: August 2nd, 4-8 p.m., Pacific University

UnCorked: August 20th, 4-9 p.m. Main Street



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A place where businesses and families thrive.

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